Closure of Regional Offices of United Bank of India

245. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Bank of India would close four of its 34 Regional Offices and merge 50 loss making branches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) United Bank of India (UBI) has reported that as part of its restructuring plan it has merged four of its regional offices with other regions, reducing its total number of regional offices from 32 to 28. UBI has further reported that it planned to merge 55 of its loss-making and stagnating branches during the period 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, out of which it has already merged 18 branches during 2000-2001 and 27 branchs will be merged during the current year.

Restoration of Leave Travel Concession facility

246. SHRI BJ. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to withdraw the suspension order imposed on Leave Travel Concession and Home-Town facilities for Government Employees;

(b) whether the Home Town concession would at least be revived; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Home Town Leave Travel Concession is admissible to members of Armed Forces, Central Para Military Forces and Central Government Employees posted in North-Eastern Regions.